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RED CROSS WORK

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

JOHN S. MUCKLE, president of the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Red Cross, reports the following work accomplished:

"In December, 1907, a request was received from the National Headquarters in Washington for funds for the sufferers of the Monongah Mine disaster in West Virginia, and an appeal was sent out and funds collected.

"In January, 1908, we were advised from the National Headquarters in Washington that a calamity had occurred at Boyertown, Pa., and we were instructed to use our own judgment in reference to aid. Arrangements were quickly made to send six physicians and twelve nurses, but before they were sent we were advised by the Boyertown authorities that they had all the necessary assistance, and a fund was collected and forwarded.

"On May 1, 1908, a request was received from the National Headquarters in Washington for six nurses for the Hattiesburg cyclone disaster, at Hattiesburg, Perry County, Mississippi. These nurses went forward the same evening and arrived on the scene of disaster twenty-four hours before nurses from any other point. It required only nineteen minutes from the time the request was received from the National Headquarters in Washington for us to report back, 'The nurses are ready to start.' This was the first time the emergency system adopted by this branch was put in action, and it proved a perfect success. In addition to the nurses' service, nine packages of men's, women's and children's clothing and two cases and one bale of flannel were also provided.

"In September, 1908, a request was received from the National Headquarters in Washington for funds for the sufferers of the Georgia-Alabama floods, and an appeal was sent out and a fund collected and forwarded. In addition to the fund, nine cases of men's, women's and children's clothing were forwarded, eight cases of which were very generously donated by the Woman's Permanent Emergency Association of Germantown.

"During the year we have enrolled fourteen Red Cross nurses, under the rules and regulations laid down by the National Headquarters in Washington.

* * *

"During the last year all hospitals, health departments and like institutions were requested to desist from the use of the 'Red Cross' emblem, and it is with much pleasure that we announce that it is now very little seen or used on the paraphernalia of the above institutions in this State.

"At the annual meeting of the American National Red Cross Society in Washington on December 2, 1907, one of the members of this branch presented a design for a 'Red Cross insignia' to be used only by officers on 'important official occasions.' This was adopted by the Central Committee of the 'American National Red Cross,' at its meeting in Washington on March 18.

"In the early part of this year, 1908, all the banks and trust companies in Pennsylvania were approached with the request that they act as guarantors should a deficit occur for the next three years in this branch. While many consented, we did not have a sufficient number to make the plan operative, and so the idea was abandoned."

The total membership November 1, 1907, was 386; total membership, November 1, 1908, 1756; a gain for the year of 1370.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Monongah Mine disaster	$2,529.36
Boyertown fire disaster	307.25
Hattiesburg cyclone	163.50
Georgia-Alabama flood	106.00
Russian famine fund	8.00
California earthquake	2.00
Chinese famine	125.19
Jamaica	3.00
Darr Mine disaster	1.00
Sale of Christmas stamps	68.56
Headquarters expenses	907.12
Total disbursements	$4,220.98

The President of the Pennsylvania State Branch, John S. Muckle; secretary, Joseph L. Steinmetz, and treasurer, Mrs. A. J. Cassatt, were elected at the annual meeting held in Independence Hall, November 17.

The Red Cross Christmas stamps were issued at this meeting, and the headquarters at Fifth and Chestnut Streets is the branch distributing office.

THE CHRISTMAS STAMP

THE Christmas stamp issued by the American National Red Cross for the purpose of raising funds to combat tuberculosis has been placed before the public in practically all the states of the union.

Those familiar with the antituberculosis work of the foreign Red Cross and other large continental societies will recall the handsome Christmas and tuberculosis stamps issued for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the work. These go on all mail, though not taking the place of the postage stamp, and so popular have they proved that now, after four years of their employment, the returns are, in most cases, larger than ever. They distribute the burden of support over thousands of persons and arouse the interest of many who but for them would be a long time finding out that tuberculosis is curable and preventable.

The Christmas stamp is not a foreign discovery. It claims America as the land of its origin. It was, to be exact, in Boston in 1862, at a Sanitary Fair, that the stamps were sold to benefit the wounded in the Civil War, and the stamps were called Sanitary Fair stamps. For many years afterward nothing was ever heard of the device, and then in 1904 the Portuguese Red Cross issued a stamp to raise money for its own work. Soon afterward the Red Cross in other countries took it up and then many societies for tuberculosis work. In many countries the postal authorities coöperated, permitting their clerks to sell the stamps outside of busy hours. In Denmark the government itself issued and handled the sale of the stamp. During the first year more than $20,000 was netted from the sale of these stamps at half a cent apiece. The money was appropriated toward the erection of a tuberculosis hospital for children. Every year since the receipts have been very much increased. The experience of all countries has been practically the same—the stamp has been established as a happy and sure method of meeting expenses.

The experience of the foreign Red Cross and antituberculosis societies is not contradicted by the trial which was given the stamp last year by the Delaware Branch of the American Red Cross—very small, very conservative, not given to enthusiasm, and having only a few shacks in a woodland meadow near Wilmington as a tuberculosis hospital. The state as a whole was ignorant and uninterested on the subject, yet the stamp, printed and put on the market only eighteen days before Christmas, amazed every one by its sensational record. Fifty thousand had been printed to sell at one cent apiece. They went in a week, and then the stamp got into Philadelphia, where the Pennsylvania Red Cross welcomed it and backed it, and the *North American* gave it splendid aid. The Delaware schools sold it, the women's clubs in Delaware took it up, the newspapers gave columns to it, the department stores, banks, drug stores and hotels sold it. Nearly four hundred thousand were sold, and nearly three thousand dollars cleared from this small, unobtrusive penny stamp.

With this money the Delaware Red Cross first brought an educational antituberculosis exhibit to Delaware, which was visited by twenty thousand people in ten days. A nurse was sent to the sanitarium, and a free dispensary supplied with milk and eggs, drugs, and a visiting nurse for the consumptive poor, and this has gone on all the year. One thousand dollars has been set aside as a nucleus toward building a hospital.

The New York State Branch used the stamp during the holiday season for the benefit of the new Vanderbilt Clinic.

With such a demonstration of the Christmas stamp possibilities, the National Red Cross this year decided to issue it in every state and raise money both for its own Red Cross day camps and also for other tuberculosis work by other organizations, which would welcome needed assistance.

The beautiful design for the stamp is the contribution of Howard Pyle, the famous artist. It is in three colors, and bears a wreath of holly and the legend Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It will bear comparison with the many interesting and beautiful foreign stamps.